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U.S. Department of State, CA/OCS/PRI
Adoption Regulations Docket Room
SA-29
2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20520

Comments in reference to docket number State/AR-01/96

As a passionate adoption advocate and adoption professional for the past two and a half years, I would like to present the following suggestions regarding the proposed regulations:

1. Eliminate the requirement for agencies to carry 3 months of operating expenses. Our agency may not be able to fulfill this requirement due to our considerable dependency on donations and fees, along with variations in the economy and the uncertainty of international adoption programs. I firmly believe this requirement could force many small agencies to close their doors.
2. Drop the requirement that Home Study caseworkers have a Masters degree. In my professional opinion, either a Bachelors degree or documented training and experience should suffice. Our Home Study department is comprised of competent, well-trained, and highly experienced caseworkers. It is not feasible for each one of these caseworkers to obtain a Masters degree. If this requirement stands, it would not be possible to find enough people, not to mention the cost would be exorbitant. Furthermore, a Masters degree cannot insure more quality than years of experience and continual, specified training.
3. Lastly, I request in that these regulations be rewritten AND republished BEFORE becoming final.

Respectfully submitted,

Chrissy Alberi
HOPE for Children, Inc.

Member:
Joint Council on International Children's Services
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INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC ADOPTIONS

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